

HANSEN'S DISEASE (LEPROSY)

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** A chronic bacterial infection caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*. Major forms of the disease are:
- **Tuberculoid:** One or a few well-demarcated, hypopigmented, and anesthetic skin lesions, frequently with active, spreading edges and a clearing center. Peripheral nerve swelling or thickening may also occur. Cell mediated immune responses are intact.
 - **Lepromatous:** A number of erythematous papules and nodules or an infiltration of the face, hands and feet with lesions in bilateral and symmetric distribution that progresses to thickening of the skin. Cell mediated immunity is greatly diminished.
 - **Borderline (Dimorphous):** Skin lesions characteristic of both tuberculoid and lepromatous forms.
 - **Indeterminate:** Early lesions, usually hypopigmented macules, without developed tuberculoid or lepromatous features.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Laboratory confirmation.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
- Demonstration of acid-fast bacilli in skin or dermal nerve, obtained from the full thickness skin biopsy of a lepromatous lesion.
- D. **KENTUCKY CASE DEFINITION:** A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES URGENT NOTIFICATION: REPORT TO THE LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT **IMMEDIATELY**** upon recognition of a case or suspected case in a time period not greater than 24 hours. If health department personnel cannot be contacted directly, notification shall be made by electronic submission or by telephone to the emergency number of the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning, **1-888-973-7678**.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUIRED:**
1. Kentucky Reportable Disease Report Form - EPID 200 (Rev. Jan/03).
 2. Leprosy Surveillance (CDC 52.18).

C. PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:

- Source investigation by LHD.
- Contacts of infectious patients should be examined at 12 month intervals for at least five years following the last exposure.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH DATA BRANCH: 502-564-3418.
- B. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH: 502-564-3261.

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

1. Chin, James, ed. LEPROSY (Hansen Disease). In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 17th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000: 289-293.
2. Pickering, LK, ed. Leprosy. In: 2000 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 25th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2000: 368-370.